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(54) **Plasma display device driven in a subframe mode**

Plasmaanzeigeeinrichtung in Unterrahmenmodus

Dispositif d'affichage à plasma contrôlé en mode sous trames

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(73) Proprietor: **Hitachi Plasma Patent Licensing Co.,
Ltd.
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo (JP)**

(72) Inventors:
• **Kojima, Ayahito**
**Nakahara-ku,
Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 211 (JP)**
• **Tajima, Masaya**
**Nakahara-ku,
Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 211 (JP)**

- **Kuriyama, Hirohito**
**Nakahara-ku,
Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 211 (JP)**
- **Ishida, Katsuhiko**
**Nakahara-ku,
Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 211 (JP)**
- **Yamamoto, Akira**
**Nakahara-ku,
Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa 211 (JP)**

(74) Representative: **Stebbing, Timothy Charles et al**
Haseltine Lake
Lincoln House
300 High Holborn
London WC1V 7JH (GB)

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a plasma display device, and in particular, it relates to a plasma display device driven in a subframe mode.

[0002] A plasma display panel (referred to as PDP, below) is a kind of flat display widely used, for example, in various OA apparatus and TVs, since the panel structure thereof is very simple and all the elements of the panel structure can be made using a thick film printing technique.

[0003] A conventional color PDP of a triple-electrode type is structured with two glass plates arranged in parallel with each other to form a discharge space. On one of the glass plates, address electrodes and a phosphor are provided while X electrodes and Y electrodes are provided on another glass plate to intersect each other at right angles. A so-called "subframe mode" is known to drive such a PDP of the triple-electrode type. In this driving mode, one frame is divided into, for example, 8 subframes, each of which has a sustaining discharge period. The respective sustaining discharge periods of the subframes are set to a ratio of 1:2:4:16:32:64:128 (although the ratio is constant in this example, there is no need for it to be always constant), and these subframes are combined to realize a grey-scale display.

[0004] In such a plasma display device driven in the subframe mode, the brightness of the PDP is determined by the total number of sustaining pulses applied to the PDP during one frame. That is, it is determined by the total number of sustaining pulses in all the subframes of one frame. In actuality, as the number of sustaining pulses applied to electrodes during one frame increases, the brightness of the display increases. Therefore, to display a bright image on the plasma display device, a large number of sustaining pulses are necessary during one frame while a small number of sustaining pulses are enough to display an image having a relatively low brightness.

[0005] PDPs are usually driven by image signals supplied from an external device, such as a TV tuner and a personal computer, connected to the PDPs. The driving frequencies of these external devices are not the same as each other. Since the length of one frame of a PDP is determined depending on one period of a driving signal, that is, a vertical synchronizing signal, introduced from an external device, the real length of one frame of the PDP varies depending on what kind of external device is connected with the plasma display device.

[0006] According to the variation of the frame length as mentioned above, a deficiency arises as follows. When the frame length becomes shorter than that expected for the plasma display device, the length of one driving period of the plasma display device required to display one frame exceeds the real frame length when displaying a very bright image with a large number of sustaining pulses. This results in an extraordinary display on the plasma display device.

[0007] On the other hand, when the frame length becomes much longer than that expected in advance for the plasma display device, the length of one driving period of the plasma display device required to display one frame becomes shorter than the expected value. This results in the unnecessary extension of a quiescent period in one frame, thus lowering the brightness of the display.

[0008] As mentioned above, the prior art plasma display device driven in a subframe mode is disadvantageous in that it does not have enough flexibility to accommodate various types of external devices having different driving frequencies.

[0009] EP-A-0 653 740 by FUJITSU LIMITED discloses a plasma display device according to the preamble of each independent claim. To establish a linear relation between a gray level and brightness, the number of sustain emissions in each subframe is set individually for each subframe and stored in a ROM table. A brightness controller produces a signal for looking up the ROM table. When setting the data to be stored in the ROM table, the maximum brightness for a sufficiently long vertical sync period is found.

[0010] EP-A-0 344 623 by Toshiba K.K. discloses a control system for a plasma display in which an effective display period is set based on a back porch period following a vertical sync signal, thus varying a number of scan lines.

[0011] According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a plasma display device comprising:

a plasma display panel;
a driving part for driving the plasma display panel in a subframe mode in which one frame for displaying is divided into a plurality of subframes and a predetermined number of sustaining pulses is applied to the plasma display panel during each of the subframes so as to
cause a sustaining discharge; and
drive control means for controlling said driving part, including:

sustaining pulse number detecting means for obtaining, from frame brightness information contained in an image signal, a total number of sustaining pulses to be applied in one frame;
frame length calculating means for calculating a length of one frame for display according to one period of a vertical synchronizing signal which is input from an external device along with said image signal,
driving period length calculating means for calculating a length of one driving period of the plasma display panel necessary for displaying one frame based on the total number of sustaining pulses obtained by said sustaining pulse number detecting means,

comparing means for comparing respective results from said frame length calculating means and said driving period length calculating means, and
 changing means for changing a total number of sustaining pulses in one frame according to a compared result in said comparing means, characterised in that
 5 said drive control means further comprises a time lapse detecting means for detecting a lapse of a predetermined time period in which no change is detected once said comparing means has detected a change in the compared result, and wherein said changing means is arranged to change the total number of sustaining pulses after said time lapse detecting means detects the lapse of the predetermined time period.

10 **[0012]** According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a plasma display device comprising:

a plasma display panel having a plurality of light emitting cells arranged in the form of a matrix;
 a driving part for driving the plasma display panel in a subframe mode in which one frame for display is divided into a plurality of subframes and a predetermined number of sustaining pulses is applied to said plurality of light emitting
 15 cells in each subframe while scanning the plurality of light emitting cells line-sequentially; and
 drive control means for controlling said driving part, including:

sustaining pulse number detecting means for obtaining, from brightness information contained in an image signal, a total number of sustaining pulses to be applied in one frame;
 20 frame length calculating means for calculating a length of one frame for the display according to one period of a vertical synchronizing signal which is introduced from an external device with said image signal,
 driving period length calculating means for calculating a length of one driving period of the plasma display panel necessary for displaying one frame based on the total number of sustaining pulses detected by said sustaining pulse number detecting means; and
 25 comparing means for comparing results from said frame length calculating means and said driving period length calculating means; characterised in that the drive control means further comprises:

changing means for changing a total number of scan lines, which are scanned in line-sequence, according to a compared result from said comparing means; and
 30 time lapse detecting means for detecting a lapse of a predetermined time period during which no change is detected once said comparing means has detected a change in is arranged to the compared result, and wherein said changing means the change the total number of scan lines after said time lapse detecting means detects the lapse of the predetermined time period.

35 **[0013]** An embodiment of the present invention may provide a plasma display device driven in a subframe mode, the device having enough flexibility to accommodate various types of external devices having different driving frequencies.

[0014] An embodiment of the present invention may also provide a plasma display device which is capable of reducing the total number of sustaining pulses to avoid an extraordinary display when the length of one frame is shorter than the length of one driving period required to display one frame.

40 **[0015]** An embodiment of the present invention may also provide a plasma display device which is capable of increasing the total number of sustaining pulses to increase brightness of the display when the length of one frame is longer than the length of one driving period required to display one frame.

[0016] An embodiment of the present invention may also provide a plasma display device, which is capable of adjusting the length of the driving period in a manner to shorten the length of one frame by reducing or increasing the number of scan lines of the plasma display device.

45 **[0017]** In case where the calculated length of one frame is shorter than that of one driving period, the changing means reduces the total number of sustaining pulses to avoid an extraordinary display. On the contrary, when the calculated length of one driving period is shorter than that of one frame length, the changing means increases the total number of sustaining pulses to increase the brightness of the panel.

50 **[0018]** In the present invention a means is further provided for finding the lapse of a constant time since the comparing means found a change in the comparing result. The changing means then changes the total number of sustaining pulses contained in one frame after the time lapse finding means detects the lapse of the constant time.

[0019] The frame length calculating means, the driving period calculating means, the comparing means, and the time lapse detecting means may be provided by a microprocessor unit and a medium in which a program is stored to operate
 55 the microprocessor unit as these means.

[0020] Reference is made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view for explaining a subframe mode for driving a PDP;

Figs. 2 (a) to 2 (c) are views showing examples of waveforms applied on address electrodes, X electrodes, and Y electrodes of the PDP;

Fig. 2 (d) is a view showing the definition of a reset period, addressing period and sustaining discharge period in one frame;

Fig. 3 is a view showing an example of stored data in a ROM table for controlling the brightness of the PDP;

Fig. 4 is a view for explaining a principle structure of circuitry for coping with frame length change in a PDP;

Fig. 5 (a) is a view showing the entire structure of a plasma display device to which the present invention can be applied;

Fig. 5 (b) is a view showing the detailed structure of the common driver control part shown in Fig. 5 (a);

Fig. 6 is a view showing the detailed structure of a part of the plasma display device shown in figs. 5 (a) and 5b;

Fig. 7 is a view showing an example of stored data in a ROM table which is used for explaining embodiments of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a view showing a flowchart of a first process useful for understanding the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a view showing a flowchart of a second process useful for understanding the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a view showing a flowchart according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a view showing a flowchart of a third process useful for understanding the present invention;

Fig. 12 is a view showing a flowchart of a fourth process useful for understanding the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a view showing a flowchart according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 14(a) is a view showing a flowchart of a fifth process useful for understanding the present invention; and

Fig. 14(b) is a view showing the detailed structure of the common driver control part shown in Fig. 5(a) for realizing the process according to Fig. 14(a).

[0021] Before describing the embodiments of the present invention, the related art and the disadvantages thereof will be described with reference to the related figures.

[0022] Fig. 1 is a schematic view for explaining the frame structure of the subframe mode. In this example, one frame is divided into 8 subframes SF1 to SF8, each subframe having three kinds of period, that is, a reset period, an addressing period and a sustaining discharge period. Each length of the first two periods is constant in every subframe while the sustaining discharge periods t_1 to t_8 are different with a constant ratio in each subframe. In Fig. 1, L1, L2, ... and LN denote horizontal scan lines and the diagonals in the address period of each subframe imply that horizontal scan lines L1, L2, ... and LN are selectively driven line-sequentially.

[0023] A conventional driving method driven in the subframe mode will be explained next with reference to the waveform diagrams shown in Figs. 2a to 2d.

[0024] Fig. 2a is a timing chart of a waveform applied to address lines within one subframe, Fig. 2b is that applied to X electrodes, and Fig. 2c is that applied to Y electrodes. In addition, Fig. 2d defines the reset period, the addressing period, and the sustaining discharge period in the respective waveform charts. In the explanation below, voltages are indicated by way of example and therefore, the method is not restricted to the voltage values described.

[0025] In the reset period, all the Y electrodes are set to a 0V level at first. At the same time, in order to form enough potential, a full-screen writing pulse of about +330V level is applied to all the X electrodes while maintaining all the address electrodes at about the +110V level. As a result, a discharge takes place in all the cells regardless of the previous display states of these cells.

[0026] Thereafter, the address electrodes and the X electrodes are set to 0-level to cause a discharge in all the cells. In this case, the potentials across the electrodes are kept 0V level so that the discharge ceases as a result of self saturation without forming any wall charges. This discharge is called a self-erasure discharge. As a result of this self-erasure discharge, all the cells in the panel are reset to a uniform state having no wall charge. This reset period is provided to set all the cells into the same state regardless of the lighting states in the previous subframe and to stabilize the address (write) discharge in the next address period.

[0027] In this reset period, a step may be provided to apply the first auxiliary pulse Vass1, the second auxiliary pulse Vass2 and the auxiliary erasure pulse Vae on the Y electrodes, in order to eliminating the wall charges on the Y electrodes. In this case, pulses of +110V level are applied to the address electrodes during the application of the auxiliary pulses.

[0028] During the address period, the panel is scanned line-sequentially in order to turn on or off the cells according to display data, thus conducting address discharge. First, the Y electrodes are scanned line-sequentially with pulses (referred to as scan pulses, below) of about -150 to -160V while keeping the voltage of the X electrodes about +50V. At the same time, pulses of about +60V (referred to as address pulses, below) are selectively applied to address electrodes, which correspond to cells to cause sustaining discharge, that is, to cause selective light emission. As a result, an electric potential of about 210 to 220V, which is enough to cause discharge, is generated across the address electrodes to which the address pulses are applied and the Y electrodes to which the scan pulses are applied, thus causing address-discharges across these electrodes. On the other hand, since the electric potential across the X electrodes and the Y electrodes, on which the scan pulses are applied, are about 200V to 210V, which is about 10V less than that of across

the address electrodes and the Y electrodes, no self-discharge takes place across them. However, discharge takes place between the X electrodes and the Y electrodes using the address-discharges as a trigger, thus forming wall charges on parts of the dielectric layer corresponding to the cross points of the X and Y electrodes.

[0029] During the sustaining discharge period (referred to as a sustaining period, below), pulses of about +180V (referred to as sustaining pulses, below) are applied to the X electrodes and the Y electrodes alternately. As a result, sustaining discharges take place between the X and Y electrodes where the wall charges have been accumulated during the previous address period, thus displaying an image of one subframe on the PDP. In this situation, a voltage of about 110V is applied to the address electrodes in order to avoid discharges across the address electrodes and the X electrodes.

[0030] In the above mentioned driving method, called a "addressing/sustaining discharge separated writing addressing method", the brightness of the panel depends on the length of the sustaining period, that is, the number of sustaining pulses applied during this period. Since the period of one sustaining pulse does not change throughout all the subframes, the number of sustaining pulses in the respective subframes shown in Fig. 1 comes into a ratio of $1n:2n:4n:8n:16n:32n:64n:128n$, wherein n means an integer determined by the sustaining pulse frequency. Accordingly, the brightness of the panel can be controlled within a grey scale between 0 and 256 in this case by selecting and combining subframes to lighten according to a grey scale to be displayed.

[0031] Since the combination of the sustaining pulses are provided usually in a ROM table, it is possible to select one particular combination of the sustaining pulses in each subframe from the ROM table based on a desired brightness.

[0032] Fig. 3 is a schematic figure of a ROM table. In the example shown, four subframes are provided and 128 combinations of sustaining pulses are provided from addresses SUS0 to SUS127, in order to simplify the explanation. Accordingly, by selecting a suitable ROM address based on a desired brightness, the number of sustaining pulses in the respective subframes is determined, thus allowing a panel display with the desired brightness.

[0033] For example, when ROM address SUS0 is selected in Fig. 3, the number of sustaining pulses in subframe SF1 is one, that of in subframe SF2 is two, that of in subframe SF3 four, and that of in subframe SF4 eight. Therefore, the total number of sustaining pulses contained in one frame is fifteen. On the other hand, when selecting ROM address SUS 127, SF1 has 16 sustaining pulses, SF2 32 sustaining pulses, SF3 64 sustaining pulses and SF4 128 sustaining pulses, thus resulting in 240 sustaining pulses in total contained in one frame. Accordingly, a 16 times difference in brightness, that is, the ratio of 15 to 240, can be obtained.

[0034] In the respective subframes, the sustaining periods have different lengths to each other while each reset period has the same length and so do the address periods. In addition, as shown in Fig. 1, a quiescent period, in which no driving waveform is output, is provided after the last subframe in each frame.

[0035] The above-mentioned driving method of the subframe mode is quite fundamental, and therefore, various changes are made to produce a real plasma display device. In the subframes shown in Fig. 1, for example, the number of sustaining pulses in each subframe is changed at a constant ratio to obtain a constant grey scale display. However, it is possible to set the number of sustaining pulses in high order subframes, for example, in subframes SF6, SF7 and SF8, to the same number as each other in order to saturate the brightness. It is emphasized that the selection of the total number of sustaining pulses is not restricted to a constant ratio and different numbers among subframes may be used.

[0036] As explained above, a conventional plasma display device controls its grey scale display by selecting the number of sustaining pulses applied during a sustaining discharge period. On the other hand, the plasma display device is connected with an external device, such as a TV tuner, a video tape deck and a personal computer to display image signals sent from such a device. In this case, various synchronizing signals are sent along with the image signals from the external device. In general, the frequency of the synchronizing signals differs depending on the kind of external devices. Since the length of one frame in a display panel is determined based on the frequency of the synchronizing signals, a phenomenon arises that the frame length changes depending on a device to which a plasma display device is connected.

[0037] This causes the following disadvantage. In a case where the frame length becomes shorter than that assumed previously, one driving period of the PDP (reset period + address period + sustaining period, as shown in Fig. 1) exceeds the one frame length, thus resulting in an extraordinary display.

[0038] The reset period and the address period are fixed to constant values respectively which are set to be as short as possible. On the other hand, the sustaining period varies depending on the number of sustaining pulses and the period of one sustaining pulse. In case where the ROM table shown in Fig. 3 is used, the maximum values of the sustaining period in the respective subframes are $16T$ μ sec. for subframe F1, $32T$ μ sec. for F2, $64T$ μ sec. for F3 and $128T$ μ sec. for F4, where T means a period of one sustaining pulse.

[0039] Accordingly, one driving period α in this case is given as follows:

[(one reset period + one address period) × number of
subframes] + [16T μsec. + 32T μsec. + 64T μsec. +
128 μsec.].

One frame length which is required to conduct an ordinary display should exceed the value α (exactly, $\alpha +$ (one vertical fly-back period)). In case that one driving period α exceeds one frame length, an ordinary display is no longer conducted.

[0040] On the contrary, when one frame length becomes much shorter than the length of one driving period due to the frequency change in a synchronizing signal externally input, the quiescent period becomes unnecessary longer, thus reducing the brightness.

[0041] As mentioned above, the conventional plasma display device driven in a subframe mode does not have enough applicability to various kind of external devices which are driven based on different synchronizing signals.

[0042] Fig. 4 shows the fundamental structure for realizing a function to cope with the frame length change in an external input signal.

[0043] In this figure, 10 denotes a frame length calculating circuit for calculating one frame length T_v based on one period of a vertical synchronizing signal V_{sync} which is input from an external device, 11 a sustaining pulse number detecting circuit for detecting the total number of sustaining pulses contained in one frame according to brightness information contained in an image signal from the external device, and 12 a driving period length calculating circuit for calculating a real driving period length T_g based on the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame, the number of which is detected by the sustaining pulse number detecting circuit 11. The length of T_g of one driving period can be calculated according to the following formula:

$$[(\text{one reset period} + \text{one addressing period}) \times \text{number of subframes}] + [\text{total number of sustaining pulses} \times T]$$

wherein T means the pulse width of one sustaining pulse. As is clear from this formula, [(one reset period + one addressing period) × number of subframes] is a fixed value, and the pulse width of a sustaining pulse is also fixed. As a result, the driving period length depends only on the number of sustaining pulses.

[0044] In Fig. 4, 14 denotes comparing circuit to compare the calculated frame length T_v with the calculated length T_g of one driving period, and outputs a compared signal S . 16 denotes changing circuit for changing the number of total sustaining pulses on one frame or the number of scan lines. According to a first process for adjusting the number of total sustaining pulses mentioned later, changing circuit 16 reduces the total number of sustaining pulses contained in one frame in order to reduce the driving period length T_g to less than the frame length T_v if comparing circuit 14 finds $T_v < T_g$. Although this process decreases the brightness of a PDP a little, an extraordinary display of the PDP is effectively avoided. When $T_v > T_g$, on the contrary, in a second process mentioned later the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame is increased to increase the brightness of the PDP.

[0045] In a third process mentioned later, changing circuit 16 decreases the number of display lines (scan lines) to shorten the length T_g of one driving period until T_g becomes shorter than T_v . In a fourth process, on the contrary, when $T_v > T_g$, the number of display lines is increased. In a usual PDP, display cells are arranged in a matrix form, and each cell is scanned line sequentially. Therefore, the reduction of the number of scan lines results in the reduction of the length of an addressing period. For example, by interrupting the drive of some display lines, which are in upper and/or lower parts of the panel, to reduce the number of display lines, respective addressing periods in each subframe are equally shortened, thus the length T_g of one driving period is reduced. As a result, T_g becomes shorter than T_v , to avoid an extraordinary display on the PDP.

[0046] On the contrary, when comparing circuit 14 finds that T_v is larger than T_g , e.g., $T_v > T_g$, one can increase the number of display lines to increase the length of an addressing period uniformly in each subframe. Thus, the number of display lines can be increased to maximize the number as long as T_v is larger than T_g .

[0047] In addition, it is possible that changing circuit changes both the total number of sustaining pulses and the number of display lines to control the relationship between the frame length T_v and the length T_g of one driving period.

[0048] Fig. 5a is a block diagram showing the outline structure of a plasma display device to which the respective embodiments of the present invention may be applied, and Fig. 6 shows a detailed structure of a part of the display shown in Fig. 5a. In these figures, 20 denotes a PDP having a plurality of plasma cells 20a (light emitting cells) arranged in form of a matrix, 21 an address driver, 22 a Y scan driver, 23 a Y common driver, 24 an X common driver and 25 a

control circuit for controlling these drivers.

[0049] Control circuit 25 is comprised of a display data control part 26 and a panel drive control part 27. As shown in Fig. 6, the display data control part 26 has a frame memory 26a, which temporally stores image data (DATA) from an external device and a data converter 26b, which gives a predetermined signal processing and timing processing to the data stored in frame memory 26a and outputs the resulting data to address driver 21. The panel drive control part 27 includes a scan driver control part 28 and a common driver control part 29 and generates various timing signals based on vertical synchronizing signals Vsync supplied from the external device. The generated timing signals are supplied to the display data control part 26, the Y scan driver 22, the Y common driver 23 and the X common driver 24.

[0050] According to the present invention, the common driver control part 29 contains the frame length calculating circuit 10, the sustaining pulse number detecting circuit 11, the driving period length calculating circuit 12, the comparing circuit 14 and the changing circuit 16, as shown in Fig. 5b. These circuits are usually formed with a microprocessor unit 29a and a memory 29c in which a program for making the microprocessor unit 29a function as these circuits is stored, as shown in Fig. 6.

[0051] It is further indicated in Fig. 5b that the common driver control part 29 contains a time lapse detecting circuit 18 which is also realized by the microprocessor unit and the program and whose function will be explained later.

[0052] Address driver 21 generates address pulses using a high voltage supply Va for selecting display cells and selectively applies these pulses to address electrodes of panel 20. Y scan driver 22 generates scan pulses using a high voltage supply Vs, which is for sustaining a display, and applies these scan pulses line sequentially to Y electrodes of panel 20. These address pulses and scan pulses are generated during the addressing period in each subframe.

[0053] Y common driver 23 generates sustaining pulses using a high voltage supply Vs for sustaining display, and applies these sustaining pulses to all the Y electrodes of panel 20 simultaneously. In a similar manner, the X common driver 24 generates sustaining pulses and a full-screen writing pulse using the high voltage supply Vs for sustaining display. The full-screen writing pulses are applied to all the X electrodes of panel 20 simultaneously during the reset period of each subframe. Of course, the sustaining pulses are applied to all the X electrodes simultaneously during the sustaining discharge period in each subframe.

[0054] Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a part of the plasma display device shown in Fig. 5a, the part which is essential for realizing the function shown in Fig. 4. As previously mentioned, the common driver control part 29 includes microprocessor unit (referred to as MPU, below) 29a, a gate array 29b and memory 29c in which a ROM table 29d for storing combinations of sustaining pulses is further included. In Fig. 7, an example of a ROM table 29d is shown for driving 8 subframes in one frame. As shown in Fig. 6, scan driver control part 28 is comprised of a scan controller 28a.

[0055] The operation of the device shown in Figs. 5 and 6 will be explained below with respect to processes to cope with a change in the frame length or driving period.

[0056] Image data (display data, DATA) introduced from an external device, for example, a TV, are stored first in frame memory 26a and converted into digital data in data converter 26b, which digital data are then sent to the common driver control part 29. MPU 29a in the common driver control part 29 calculates the actual length Tg of one driving period based on the data from data converter 26b. In actuality, MPU 29a finds brightness information from the data sent from data converter 26a and then finds the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame by referring to ROM table 29d which contains information regarding the number of subframes and the number of sustaining pulses in the respective subframes.

[0057] On the other hand, MPU 29a calculates one frame length Tv according to vertical synchronizing signals Vsync from the external device. The calculated values Tg and Tv are compared also in MPU 29c to determine the correction value of the total number of sustaining pulses or the number of scan lines. Then, the correction value is sent to scan controller 28a, which controls the driving period length Tg by increasing or decreasing the number of scan lines or the address of ROM table 29d.

[0058] Next, various processes performed by the device shown in Figs. 5 and 6 will be explained with referring to flowcharts, each of which shows a program condition in MPU 29a. Therefore, by changing a program in MPU 29c, various processes and embodiments of the present invention can be realized.

[0059] In explaining the various processes and embodiments, the ROM table shown in Fig. 7 will be referred to. The ROM table shown is used in a PDP driven in a subframe mode and having an automatic power control function, for determining the upper limit value of the brightness (that is, the total number of sustaining pulses). In a conventional PDP, when selecting, for example, SUS 127 in the ROM table shown in Fig. 3, not only the brightness but the power consumption becomes a maximum (in a case where the display ratio is equal to 100%). Since the display ratio is usually about 30%, the power consumption of the PDP does not exceed a designed value even if SUS 127 is selected. However, when the display ratio unusually comes to about 100% or near to 100%, the power consumption may exceed the designed value. Therefore, the automatic power control function restricts the selection of addresses of the ROM table so as not to exceed a designed maximum value of brightness (referred to as MCBC, below). The ROM table shown in Fig. 7 indicates these maximum values of brightness. However, the ROM table of Fig. 7 is shown only as an example, and therefore, the present invention is not restricted to the ROM table used for such a special purpose.

(First Process Useful for Understanding the Invention)

[0060] The flowchart shown in Fig. 8 indicates a process to avoid an extraordinary display, which happens when one frame length derived from an input signal is shorter than one driving length of a PDP, by decreasing the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame.

[0061] First, the length of one period of vertical synchronizing signal Vsync is measured at step 100, and the measured value is set to be one frame length Tv for driving the PDP. Thereafter, at step 101, the length of one driving period Tg is calculated as follows. First, the length of one reset period is added to that of one addressing period and the resulting value is multiplied by the number of subframes in one frame. In this case, the respective lengths of reset periods and addressing periods are fixed to the same values respectively over the entire subframes. Second, the total number of sustaining pulses is obtained from a ROM table address which corresponds to the brightness of the input image signal. For example, when the brightness of the input image signal corresponds to address MCBC 126 shown in Fig. 7, the total number of sustaining pulses is obtained as 377 from the table. Based on this value, the total length of sustaining discharge periods in one frame can be calculated, which is then added with the total length of the reset periods and the addressing periods obtained as mentioned before, in order to derive the length of one driving period Tg.

[0062] In the next step 102, the frame length Tv obtained at step 100 is compared with the length Tg of one driving period obtained at step 101. When Tv is less than Tg, the difference Tr (=Tg - Tv) is obtained at step 103. Thereafter, at step 104, Tr is divided by constant A, which is adequately determined in advance, to find a magnitude of reduction of the address value. The present address, for example, address MCBC 126, is thus decreased by the amount of Tr/A to obtain a corrected address BCmax, for example, address MCBC 124.

[0063] By selecting an adequate value to be the constant A, the address of the ROM table can be decreased sufficiently, and as a result, the total number of sustaining pulses can be decreased sufficiently to shorten the length Tg of one driving period to less than the one frame length Tv, thus avoiding an extraordinary display. For example, the address reduction from MCBC 126 to MCBC 124 results in the reduction of the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame from 377 to 369, thus shortening the driving period Tg to less than the frame length Tv. On the other hand, when Tv is larger than Tg at step 102, the present address MCBC is used without any address reduction.

[0064] If a relatively large value is selected as constant A, the address value of the ROM table may not be reduced sufficiently to shorten the driving period length Tg less than the frame length Tv. On the other hand, if a relatively small value is selected as constant A, such an inconvenience can be avoided. In this case, however, a large address change occurs in the ROM table, thus inviting an undesirable condition in which the brightness change on the PDP is too great.

[0065] In order to avoid the above inconvenience, constant A may be selected to be as large as possible and the output from step 104 may be connected not to RETURN but to the input of step 101, as shown with a dotted line in Fig. 8. In other words, the calculation of the driving period length Tg and the comparison between Tv and Tg are repeated by reducing an address value of the ROM table in short steps, thus making it possible to detect an adequate address of the ROM table without inviting a large brightness change.

(Second Process Useful for Understanding the Invention)

[0066] The flowchart shown in Fig. 9 shows a process to increase the brightness of a PDP by increasing the total number of sustaining pulses when a driving period length is shorter than a frame length determined by an input synchronizing signal. In the following description, the same reference numerals are adopted to the same or the similar steps, and therefore, the explanation thereof will not be repeated in detail.

[0067] At step 100, one frame length Tv is obtained based on one period of an input vertical synchronizing signal Vsync. Next, at step 101, one driving period length Tg is obtained based on an address of the ROM table, which address corresponds to the brightness of the input image signal. For example, when address MCBC 124 is used, it is found from the ROM table that the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame is 369. The driving period length Tg can be calculated based on the total number of sustaining pulses thus obtained as mentioned in the first embodiment.

[0068] Next, at step 200, the comparison between Tg and Tv is conducted to find if Tv > Tg. In case that Tv > Tg, i.e., the frame length determined by an input synchronizing signal is longer than the driving period length, the calculation Tv - Tg is conducted at step 201 to find the difference Tr. At step 202, Tr is divided by an adequately determined constant A, thus obtaining an increasing amount of address step, which is then added to the present address, for example, MCBC 124, to obtain a corrected address BCmax, for example, MCBC 126. As a result, the brightness of the PDP is increased by an amount corresponding to the increase in the total number of sustaining pulses, for example, from 369 to 377. In this case, as explained in the first embodiment, constant A may be set as large as possible and the output of step 202 may be connected to the input of step 101 to repeat the processes from step 101 to step 202. As a result, a value of BCmax as large as possible can be obtained, thus allowing the brightness of the PDP to be set to the highest value within a range in which an ordinary display is possible.

[0069] By combining the first process and the second process, another processing is possible as follows. In case that,

as a result of the processing shown in Fig. 8, the frame length T_v becomes much longer than the driving period length T_g by lowering the ROM table address, for example, from MCBC 126 to MCBC 122, then, the brightness of the PDP is increased by conducting steps 200 to 202 shown in Fig. 9 to increase the ROM table address, for example, up to MCBC 125. Thus, the brightness can be increased to a maximum value as long as the ordinary display is possible.

(First Embodiment)

[0070] The first and the second processes described above assume that the frequency of an input synchronizing signal does not change during the whole display process. However, in a video tape recorder, for example, the frequency (60 Hz) in an ordinary playback mode is different from that (61.5 Hz) of a quick playback mode. In addition, these modes are used repeatedly in general. In such a case, when the driving mode is changed from the ordinary playback mode to the quick playback mode, the frame length T_v becomes shorter than before. Therefore, the total number of sustaining pulses should be reduced immediately according to the process shown in Fig. 8 to avoid an extraordinary display. However, as mentioned before, the quick playback mode and the ordinary playback mode are used repeatedly. Therefore, if the total number of sustaining pulses is increased to raise the brightness of the PDP when the driving mode is temporarily set back from the quick playback mode to the ordinary playback mode, it should be decreased again after a short period to reduce the brightness at the next quick playback mode. This yields a disadvantage that the brightness of the PDP changes too frequently.

[0071] The first embodiment avoids such a disadvantage by not increasing the total number of sustaining pulses to increase the brightness of the PDP during a temporarily return from the quick playback mode to the ordinary playback mode, but by increasing the total number of sustaining pulses to increase the brightness after the driving mode completely returns to the ordinary playback mode.

[0072] To this end, the present embodiment adds the following steps to the flowchart shown in Fig. 8 as shown in Fig. 10: step 300 for resetting counter CT to 0; step 301 for setting the value of counter CT to a predetermined value F after completing the comparison between T_v and T_g ; step 302 for judging the counter CT value to be 0 or not, after completing the brightness correction in step 104; step 303 for reducing the value in counter CT by one; and step 304 for resetting the brightness value BCmax to the original value MCBC when the value of counter CT becomes 0 at step 302. In the present invention, these functions are realized by the time lapse detecting circuit 18 in the common driver control part 29 shown in Fig. 5b.

[0073] According to the flowchart shown in Fig. 10, when the frame length of an input signal changes, for example, from 60 Hz to 61.5 Hz due to an operation change from the ordinary playback mode to the quick playback mode, the total number of sustaining pulses is reduced immediately to conduct the ordinary display by implementing steps 100 to 103. In case that the driving mode returns temporarily from the quick playback mode to the ordinary playback mode and $T_v \geq T_g$ at step 102, re-correction of the brightness is not conducted until counter CT counts F from 0. In other words, the brightness is maintained at BCmax, which is of the brightness during the quick playback mode. Once a predetermined time (determined by F) has passed while keeping the ordinary playback mode, this state is no longer deemed as a temporarily return from the quick playback mode to the ordinary playback mode. Therefore, at step 304, the brightness of the panel should be returned from BCmax to the original brightness MCBC, which is of the brightness for the ordinary playback mode. Thus, a frequent change in brightness can be avoided even though the ordinary playback mode and the quick playback mode are repeated.

[0074] The processes and embodiment described above overcome the frame length change by changing the total number of sustaining pulses. However, third and fourth processes and a second embodiment described below overcome the frame length change by changing the number of scan lines in the PDP. Changing the number of scan lines results in the uniform change of the addressing periods in the respective subframes, for example, shown in Fig. 1. Accordingly, by reducing the number of scan lines, the length of one driving period becomes shorter while it becomes longer by increasing the number of scan lines.

(Third Process Useful for Understanding the Invention)

[0075] In the third process shown in Fig. 11, T_v and T_g are obtained at steps 100 and 101, T_v and T_g are compared in step 102, and the difference T_r between T_v and T_g is derived in step 103 in the same manner as the first process which changes the total number of sustaining pulses to overcome the frame length change. Thereafter, at step 400, T_r/T_{g1} is subtracted from NL, which is the number of scan lines at present, to derive a new number of scan lines NLmax, where T_{g1} indicates a driving period for scanning one display line. Thus, the respective addressing periods can be reduced so that the length of one driving period becomes shorter than the one frame length to avoid an extraordinary display.

(fourth Process Useful for Understanding the Invention)

[0076] In the fourth process shown in Fig. 12, if T_v is found to be longer than T_g at step 200, then, the calculation of $(T_v - T_g)$ is conducted at step 201 to derive the difference T_r . Thereafter, at step 500, T_r is divided by T_{g1} , which is of one driving period for one scan line, and the quotient T_r/T_{g1} is added to the present number of scan lines to derive a corrected number of scan lines NL_{max} . Thus, the number of scan lines is increased to a maximum value as long as the condition $T_v > T_g$ is maintained.

(Second Embodiment)

[0077] The flowchart shown in Fig. 13 has an additional function, which is able to avoid a frequent brightness change derived from a temporarily frequency changes of an input signal, in addition to the function of the process shown in Fig. 11, which overcomes the extraordinary display problem by reducing the number of scan lines. This function is based on the same necessity as that of the first embodiment, and therefore, the explanation thereof will not be repeated here.

[0078] In this embodiment, new steps 600, 601, 602, 603 and 604 are added to the flowchart of the process shown in Fig. 11, wherein step 600 is to reset counter CT to 0, step 601 to set counter CT to be a predetermined value F, step 602 to judge whether counter CT is 0 or not, step 603 to decrement counter CT by one, and step 604 to reset the corrected number of scan lines NL_{max} , obtained by conducting steps 100 to 103 and 400, to the original number of scan lines NL.

[0079] The detailed explanation of the second embodiment is not described here because the processes of this embodiment are the same or similar to those of the first embodiment except that the reduction of the total number of sustaining pulses in the first embodiment is replaced by the reduction of the number of display lines.

[0080] The first and second embodiments mentioned above are also effective as a supplemental technique for the existing countermeasures against a multi-scanning mode. For example, among PDPs driven in a subframe mode, there is proposed a PDP having a multi-Vsync function which is to reduce the number of subframes in synchronizing with the period of a vertical synchronizing signal (Vsync). This function can, however, adjust the length of a driving period using only the minimum subframe, for example, SF1, as one unit, thus resulting in a rough adjustment. On the contrary, a fine adjustment is possible by applying the present invention. This provides a PDP having a high applicability to a wide range of frequency, in addition to the effect of reducing the number of the subframes.

(Fifth Process Useful for Understanding the Invention)

[0081] In the first and the second processes mentioned above, the display brightness of a PDP changes according to the frequency change of an input signal from an external device, to which the PDP is connected. As a result, an event occurs in which one image is displayed with a different brightness when a PDP is connected to a different external device, although the image essentially has the same brightness. The flowchart shown in Fig. 14a shows a process designed to cope with such an event.

[0082] In this process, one frame length T_v is first calculated from one period of an input synchronizing signal at step 100. Thereafter, at step 700, the maximum number of sustaining pulses $N_{sus}(T_v)$, which can be applied during the one frame length T_v without causing an extraordinary display, is calculated based on the frame length T_v obtained in step 100. By multiplying Y_{sus} , which is of a brightness of one sustaining pulse, by $N_{sus}(T_v)$, the maximum brightness Y_{max} which can be displayed without causing any extraordinary display is obtained. On the other hand, a brightness to be a reference value (predetermined brightness Y_c) has been set in advance in order to fix the display brightness constant without depending on the frequencies of input signals.

[0083] At step 701, the obtained maximum brightness Y_{max} and the predetermined brightness Y_c are compared. In a case where the values do not agree with each other at step 701, the process moves to step 702 in which correction of the present number of sustaining pulses is conducted to make it agree with the predetermined brightness Y_c . In actuality, the predetermined brightness Y_c is subtracted from the maximum brightness Y_{max} and the difference is divided by brightness Y_{sus} for one sustaining pulse, thus obtaining a correction value of the total number of sustaining pulses. Then, this correction value is subtracted from N_{sus} , which is the number of sustaining pulses capable of being displayed, and as a result, the number of sustaining pulses corresponding to the predetermined brightness Y_c is obtained.

[0084] Fig. 14b shows the structure of the common driver control part 29 shown in Fig. 5a, which structure is designed especially to realize the fifth process. In fact, common driver control part 29 includes the frame length calculating circuit 10 for conducting the step 100, a maximum number of sustaining pulse and maximum brightness calculating circuit 291 for conducting the step 700, an agreement detecting circuit 292 for conducting the step 701, and a maximum number of sustaining pulse setting circuit 293 for conducting the step 702 shown in Fig. 14a. These circuits 10, 291, 292, 293 and 294 are, of course, structured with the MPU 29a and the memory 29c shown in Fig. 6.

[0085] Accordingly, the present invention is capable of improving the display quality of a PDP by so adjusting the total

number of sustaining pulses that an image is displayed with the same brightness regardless that what kind of external device is connected to the PDP.

[0086] As described above with reference to the preferred embodiments, a plasma display device embodying the present invention is capable of conducting an ordinary display even if it is connected to an external device driven by a different frequency. This is because the plasma display device can adjust the total number of sustaining pulses or the number of scanning lines so that the relationship between the frame length and the driving period length becomes proper. Thus, it becomes possible to provide a plasma display device having a high applicability to a variety of external devices.

Claims

1. A plasma display device comprising:

a plasma display panel (2);

a driving part (21-25) for driving the plasma display panel (2) in a subframe mode in which one frame for displaying is divided into a plurality of subframes and a predetermined number of sustaining pulses is applied to the plasma display panel (20) during each of the subframes so as to cause a sustaining discharge; and drive control means (29) for controlling said driving part, including:

sustaining pulse number detecting means (11) for obtaining, from frame brightness information contained in an image signal, a total number of sustaining pulses to be applied in one frame;

frame length calculating means (10) for calculating a length of one frame for display according to one period of a vertical synchronizing signal which is input from an external device along with said image signal,

driving period length calculating means (12) for calculating a length of one driving period of the plasma display panel (20) necessary for displaying one frame based on the total number of sustaining pulses obtained by said sustaining pulse number detecting means (11),

comparing means (14) for comparing respective results from said frame length calculating means (10) and said driving period length calculating means (12), and

changing means (16) for changing a total number of sustaining pulses in one frame according to a compared result in said comparing means (14);

characterised in that:

said drive control means (29) further comprises a time lapse detecting means (18) for detecting a lapse of a predetermined time period in which no change is detected once said comparing means (14) has detected a change in the compared result, and wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of sustaining pulses after said time lapse detecting means (18) detects the lapse of the predetermined time period.

2. The plasma display device according to claim 1, wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of sustaining pulses in a manner to reduce the same when said comparing means (14) finds that the length of one frame obtained by the frame length calculating means (10) is shorter than the length of one driving period obtaining by the driving period length calculating means (12).

3. The plasma display device according to claim 1, wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of sustaining pulses in a manner to increase the same when said comparing means (14) finds that the length of one frame obtained by the frame length calculating means (10) is longer than the length of one driving period obtained by the driving period length calculating means (12).

4. The plasma display device according to claim 1, wherein said frame length calculating means (10), driving period length calculating means (12), comparing means (14), and time lapse detecting means (18) are provided by a microprocessor unit (29a) and a recording medium (29c) in which a program for making said microprocessor unit (29a) to function as said means (10, 12, 14, 18) is stored.

5. The plasma display device according to any preceding claim, wherein said drive control means (29) further comprises a ROM table (29d) having a plurality of addresses in which a combination of numbers of sustaining pulses for respective subframes is stored, said sustaining pulse number detecting means (11) is arranged to detect said total number of sustaining pulses contained in one frame based on an address of said ROM table (29d), said address corresponding to said brightness

information contained in said image signal.

6. The plasma display device according to claim 5, wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of sustaining pulses in one frame by changing an address of the ROM table (29d).

7. A plasma display device comprising:

a plasma display panel (20) having a plurality of light emitting cells arranged in the form of a matrix;
a driving part (21-25) for driving the plasma display panel (20) in a subframe mode in which one frame for display is divided into a plurality of subframes and a predetermined number of sustaining pulses is applied to said plurality of light emitting cells in each subframe while scanning the plurality of light emitting cells line-sequentially; and
drive control means (29) for controlling said driving part, including:

sustaining pulse number detecting means (11) for obtaining, from brightness information contained in an image signal, a total number of sustaining pulses to be applied in one frame;
frame length calculating means (10) for calculating a length of one frame for the display according to one period of a vertical synchronizing signal which is introduced from an external device with said image signal,
driving period length calculating means (12) for calculating a length of one driving period of the plasma display panel (20) necessary for displaying one frame based on the total number of sustaining pulses detected by said sustaining pulse number detecting means (11), and
comparing means (14) for comparing results from said frame length calculating means (10) and said driving period length calculating means (12); **characterised in that** said drive control means (29) further comprises:

changing means (16) for changing a total number of scan lines, which are scanned in line-sequence, according to a compared result from said comparing means (14); and
time lapse detecting means (18) for detecting a lapse of a predetermined time period during which no change is detected once said comparing means (14) has detected a change in the compared result, and wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of scan lines after said time lapse detecting means (18) detects the lapse of the predetermined time period.

8. The plasma display device according to claim 7, wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of scan lines in a manner to reduce the same when said comparing means (14) finds that the length of one frame obtained by the frame length calculating means (10) is shorter than the length of one driving period obtained by the driving period length calculating means (12).

9. The plasma display device according to claim 7, wherein said changing means (16) is arranged to change the total number of scan lines in a manner to increase the same when said comparing means (14) finds that the length of one frame obtained by the frame length calculating means (10) is longer than the length of one driving period obtained by the driving period length calculating means (12).

10. The plasma display device according to claim 7, wherein said frame length calculating means (10), driving period length calculating means (12), comparing means (14), and time lapse detecting means (18) are provided by a microprocessor unit (29a) and a recording medium (29c) in which a program for making said microprocessor unit (29a) to function as said means (10, 12, 14, 18) is stored.

Patentansprüche

1. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung mit:

einer Plasmaanzeigetafel (20);
einem Antriebsteil (21-25) zum Antreiben der Plasmaanzeigetafel (20) in einem Unterrahmenmodus, in dem ein Rahmen zum Anzeigen in eine Vielzahl von Unterrahmen geteilt wird und eine vorbestimmte Anzahl von Halteimpulsen auf die Plasmaanzeigetafel (20) während jedes der Unterrahmen angewendet wird, um eine Halteentladung zu bewirken; und
einem Treibersteuermittel (29), zum Steuern des Antriebsteils, das enthält:

ein Halteimpulsanzahldetektionsmittel (11) zum Erhalten, von Rahmenhelligkeitsinformationen, die in einem Bildsignal enthalten sind, einer Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen, die in einem Rahmen anzuwenden sind; ein Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) zum Berechnen einer Länge eines Rahmens zur Anzeige gemäß einer Periode eines Vertikalsynchronisationssignals, das von einer externen Vorrichtung einhergehend mit dem Bildsignal eingegeben wird, ein Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) zum Berechnen einer Länge einer Antriebsperiode der Plasmaanzeigetafel (20), die zum Anzeigen eines Rahmens erforderlich ist, auf der Basis der Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen, die durch das Halteimpulsanzahldetektionsmittel (11) erhalten wurde, ein Vergleichsmittel (14) zum Vergleichen von jeweiligen Resultaten von dem Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) und dem Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) und ein Veränderungsmittel (16) zum Verändern einer Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen in einem Rahmen gemäß einem vergleichsresultat in dem Vergleichsmittel (14);

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:

das Treibersteuermittel (29) ferner ein Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) zum Detektieren des Ablaufs einer vorbestimmten Zeitperiode umfasst, in der keine Veränderung detektiert wird, seitdem das Vergleichsmittel (14) eine Veränderung bei dem Vergleichsresultat detektiert hat, und bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen zu verändern, nachdem das Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) den Ablauf der vorbestimmten Zeitperiode detektiert hat.

2. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen in einer Weise zu verändern, um dieselbe zu reduzieren, wenn das Vergleichsmittel (14) herausfindet, dass die Länge eines Rahmens, die durch das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) erhalten wurde, kürzer als die Länge einer Antriebsperiode ist, die durch das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) erhalten wurde.
3. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen in einer Weise zu verändern, um dieselbe zu erhöhen, wenn das Vergleichsmittel (14) herausfindet, dass die Länge eines Rahmens, die durch das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) erhalten wurde, länger als die Länge einer Antriebsperiode ist, die durch das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) erhalten wurde.
4. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10), das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12), das Vergleichsmittel (14) und das Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) durch eine Mikroprozessoreinheit (29a) und ein Aufzeichnungsmedium (29c) vorgesehen werden, in dem ein Programm gespeichert ist, um zu bewirken, dass die Mikroprozessoreinheit (29a) als die genannten Mittel (10, 12, 14, 18) fungiert.
5. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach irgendeinem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei der das Treibersteuermittel (29) ferner eine ROM-Tabelle (29d) umfasst, die eine Vielzahl von Adressen hat, in denen eine Kombination aus Anzahlen von Halteimpulsen für jeweilige Unterrahmen gespeichert ist, das Halteimpulsanzahldetektionsmittel (11) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen, die in einem Rahmen enthalten sind, auf der Basis einer Adresse der ROM-Tabelle (29d) zu detektieren, welche Adresse den Helligkeitsinformationen entspricht, die in dem Bildsignal enthalten sind.
6. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 5, bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen in einem Rahmen durch das Verändern einer Adresse der ROM-Tabelle (29d) zu verändern.

7. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung mit:

einer Plasmaanzeigetafel (20), die eine Vielzahl von Lichtemissionszellen hat, die in Form einer Matrix angeordnet sind;
 einem Antriebsteil (21-25) zum Antreiben der Plasmaanzeigetafel (20) in einem Unterrahmenmodus, in dem ein Rahmen zur Anzeige in eine Vielzahl von Unterrahmen geteilt wird und eine vorbestimmte Anzahl von Halteimpulsen auf die Vielzahl von Lichtemissionszellen in jedem Unterrahmen angewendet wird, während die Vielzahl von Lichtemissionszellen zeilenweise sequentiell gescannt wird; und
 einem Treibersteuermittel (29), zum Steuern des Antriebsteils, das enthält:

ein Halteimpulsanzahldetektionsmittel (11) zum Erhalten, von Helligkeitsinformationen, die in einem Bildsignal enthalten sind, einer Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen, die in einem Rahmen anzuwenden sind;
 ein Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) zum Berechnen einer Länge eines Rahmens für die Anzeige gemäß einer Periode eines Vertikalsynchronisationssignals, das von einer externen Vorrichtung mit dem Bildsignal eingeführt wird,
 ein Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) zum Berechnen einer Länge einer Antriebsperiode der Plasmaanzeigetafel (20), die zum Anzeigen eines Rahmens erforderlich ist, auf der Basis der Gesamtanzahl von Halteimpulsen, die durch das Halteimpulsanzahldetektionsmittel (11) detektiert wurde, und
 ein Vergleichsmittel (14) zum Vergleichen von Resultaten von dem Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) und dem Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12);

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass das Treibersteueremittel (29) ferner umfasst:

ein Veränderungsmittel (16) zum Verändern einer Gesamtanzahl von Scanzeilen, die zeilenweise sequentiell gescannt werden, gemäß einem Vergleichsresultat von dem Vergleichsmittel (14); und
 ein Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) zum Detektieren des Ablaufs einer vorbestimmten Zeitperiode, während der keine Veränderung detektiert wird, seitdem das Vergleichsmittel (14) eine Veränderung bei dem Vergleichsresultat detektiert hat, und bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Scanzeilen zu verändern, nachdem das Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) den Ablauf der vorbestimmten Zeitperiode detektiert hat.

8. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Scanzeilen in einer Weise zu verändern, um dieselbe zu reduzieren, wenn das Vergleichsmittel (14) herausfindet, dass die Länge eines Rahmens, die durch das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) erhalten wurde, kürzer als die Länge einer Antriebsperiode ist, die durch das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) erhalten wurde.
9. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, bei der das Veränderungsmittel (16) angeordnet ist, um die Gesamtanzahl von Scanzeilen in einer Weise zu verändern, um dieselbe zu erhöhen, wenn das Vergleichsmittel (14) herausfindet, dass die Länge eines Rahmens, die durch das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10) erhalten wurde, länger als die Länge einer Antriebsperiode ist, die durch das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12) erhalten wurde.
10. Plasmaanzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, bei der das Rahmenlängenberechnungsmittel (10), das Antriebsperiodenlängenberechnungsmittel (12), das Vergleichsmittel (14) und das Zeitablaufdetektionsmittel (18) durch eine Mikroprozessoreinheit (29a) und ein Aufzeichnungsmedium (29c) vorgesehen werden, in dem ein Programm gespeichert ist, um zu bewirken, dass die Mikroprozessoreinheit (29a) als die genannten Mittel (10, 12, 14, 18) fungiert.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma comprenant :

un panneau d'affichage à plasma (2) ;
 une partie d'entraînement (21-25) servant à entraîner le panneau d'affichage à plasma (2) en un mode sous-trames dans lequel une trame d'affichage est divisée en une pluralité de sous-trames et un nombre prédéterminé d'impulsions de soutien sont appliquées au panneau d'affichage à plasma (20) pendant chacune des sous-trames de manière à provoquer une décharge de soutien ; et
 un moyen de commande d'entraînement (29) servant à commander ladite partie d'entraînement, incluant :

un moyen de détection de nombre d'impulsions de soutien (11) servant à obtenir, à partir d'informations de luminosité de trame contenues dans un signal d'image, un nombre total d'impulsions de soutien à appliquer dans une trame ;
 un moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) servant à calculer une longueur d'une trame d'affichage selon une période d'un signal de synchronisation verticale qui est entré depuis un dispositif externe avec ledit signal d'image,
 un moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12) servant à calculer une longueur d'une période d'entraînement du panneau d'affichage à plasma (20) nécessaire pour afficher une trame sur la

base du nombre total d'impulsions de soutien obtenu par ledit moyen de détection de nombre d'impulsions de soutien (11),
 un moyen de comparaison (14) servant à comparer les résultats respectifs provenant dudit moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) et dudit moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12), et
 un moyen de changement (16) servant à changer un nombre total d'impulsions de soutien dans une trame selon un résultat comparé dans ledit moyen de comparaison (14);

caractérisé en ce que :

- ledit moyen de commande d'entraînement (29) comprend en outre un moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) servant à détecter un intervalle d'une période prédéterminée dans lequel aucun changement n'est détecté une fois que ledit moyen de comparaison (14) a détecté un changement dans le résultat comparé, et dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total d'impulsions de soutien après que ledit moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) a détecté l'intervalle de la période prédéterminée.
2. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total d'impulsions de soutien de manière à réduire celui-ci lorsque ledit moyen de comparaison (14) trouve que la longueur d'une trame obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) est plus courte que la longueur d'une période d'entraînement obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12).
3. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total d'impulsions de soutien de manière à augmenter celui-ci lorsque ledit moyen de comparaison (14) trouve que la longueur d'une trame obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) est plus longue que la longueur d'une période d'entraînement obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12).
4. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10), ledit moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12), ledit moyen de comparaison (14), et ledit moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) sont fournis par une unité microprocesseur (29a) et un support d'enregistrement (29c) dans lequel est stocké un programme servant à amener ladite unité microprocesseur (29a) à fonctionner en tant que lesdits moyens (10, 12, 14, 18).
5. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit moyen de commande d'entraînement (29) comprend en outre une table ROM (29d) comportant une pluralité d'adresses dans laquelle est stockée une combinaison de nombres d'impulsions de soutien pour les sous-trames respectives, ledit moyen de détection de nombre d'impulsions de soutien (11) est agencé pour détecter ledit nombre total d'impulsions de soutien contenues dans une trame sur la base d'une adresse de ladite table ROM (29d), ladite adresse correspondant auxdites informations de luminosité contenues dans ledit signal d'image.
6. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total d'impulsions de soutien dans une trame en changeant une adresse de la table ROM (29d).
7. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma comprenant :
 - un panneau d'affichage à plasma (20) comportant une pluralité de cellules électroluminescentes agencées sous la forme d'une matrice ;
 - une partie d'entraînement (21-25) servant à entraîner le panneau d'affichage à plasma (20) en un mode sous-trames dans lequel une trame d'affichage est divisée en une pluralité de sous-trames et un nombre prédéterminé d'impulsions de soutien sont appliquées à ladite pluralité de cellules électroluminescentes dans chaque sous-trame tout en balayant la pluralité de cellules électroluminescentes de manière séquentiellement linéaire ; et
 - un moyen de commande d'entraînement (29) servant à commander ladite partie d'entraînement, incluant :
 - un moyen de détection de nombre d'impulsions de soutien (11) servant à obtenir, à partir d'informations de luminosité contenues dans un signal d'image, un nombre total d'impulsions de soutien à appliquer dans une trame ;

un moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) servant à calculer une longueur d'une trame d'affichage selon une période d'un signal de synchronisation verticale qui est introduit depuis un dispositif externe avec ledit signal d'image ;

un moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12) servant à calculer une longueur d'une période d'entraînement du panneau d'affichage à plasma (20) nécessaire pour afficher une trame sur la base du nombre total d'impulsions de soutien détecté par ledit moyen de détection de nombre d'impulsions de soutien (11), et

un moyen de comparaison (14) servant à comparer les résultats provenant dudit moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) et dudit moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12) ; **caractérisé en ce que** ledit moyen de commande d'entraînement (29) comprend en outre :

un moyen de changement (16) servant à changer un nombre total de lignes de balayage, qui sont balayées de manière séquentiellement linéaire, selon un résultat comparé provenant dudit moyen de comparaison (14) ; et

un moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) servant à détecter un intervalle d'une période prédéterminée pendant lequel aucun changement n'est détecté une fois que ledit moyen de comparaison (14) a détecté un changement dans le résultat comparé, et dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total de lignes de balayage après que ledit moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) a détecté l'intervalle de la période prédéterminée.

8. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total de lignes de balayage de manière à réduire celui-ci lorsque ledit moyen de comparaison (14) trouve que la longueur d'une trame obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) est plus courte que la longueur d'une période d'entraînement obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12).

9. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ledit moyen de changement (16) est agencé pour changer le nombre total de lignes de balayage de manière à augmenter celui-ci lorsque ledit moyen de comparaison (14) trouve que la longueur d'une trame obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10) est plus longue que la longueur d'une période d'entraînement obtenue par le moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12).

10. Dispositif d'affichage à plasma selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ledit moyen de calcul de longueur de trame (10), ledit moyen de calcul de longueur de période d'entraînement (12), ledit moyen de comparaison (14), et ledit moyen de détection d'intervalle de temps (18) sont fournis par une unité microprocesseur (29a) et un support d'enregistrement (29c) dans lequel est stocké un programme servant à amener ladite unité microprocesseur (29a) à fonctionner en tant que lesdits moyens (10, 12, 14, 18).

Fig.1

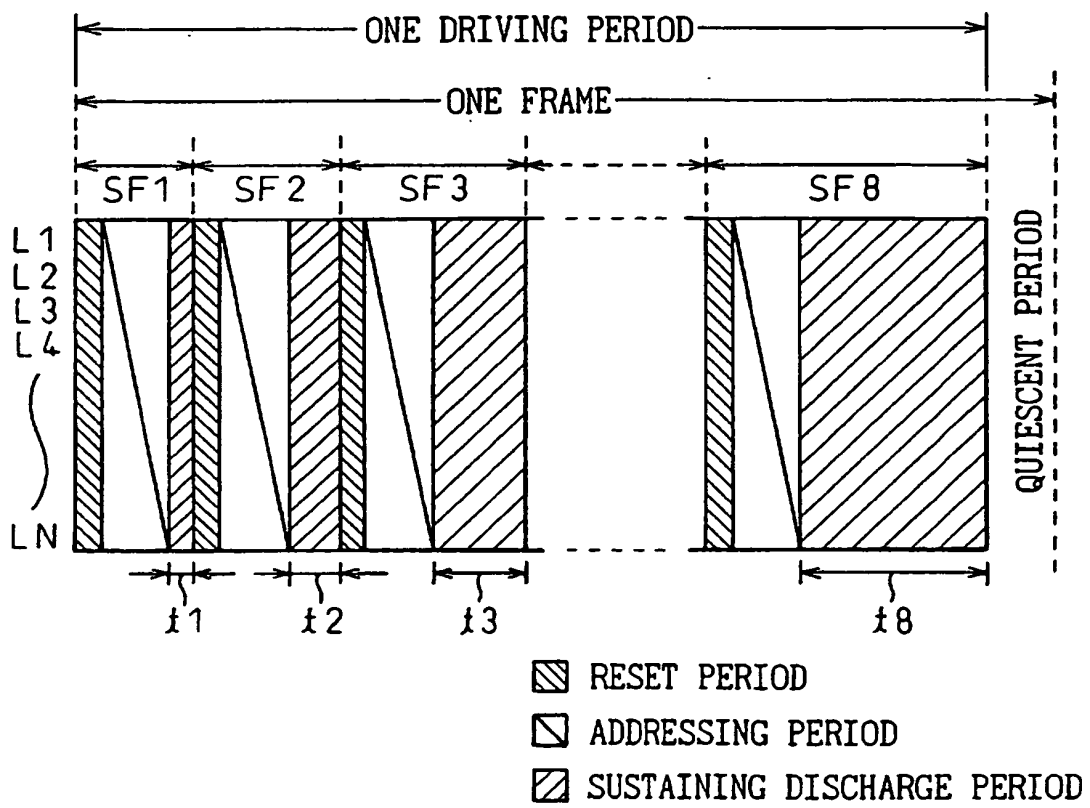


Fig.2(a) DRIVING WAVEFORM
FOR ADDRESS
ELECTRODE

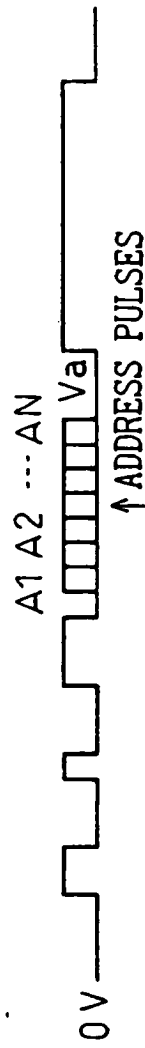


Fig.2(b) DRIVING WAVEFORM
FOR X ELECTRODE

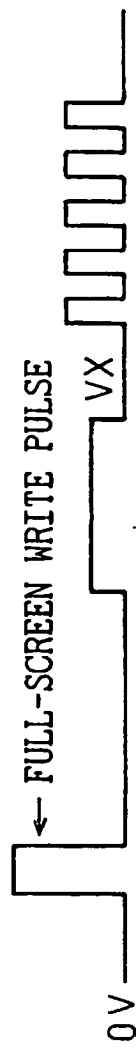


Fig.2(c) DRIVING WAVEFORM
FOR Y ELECTRODE

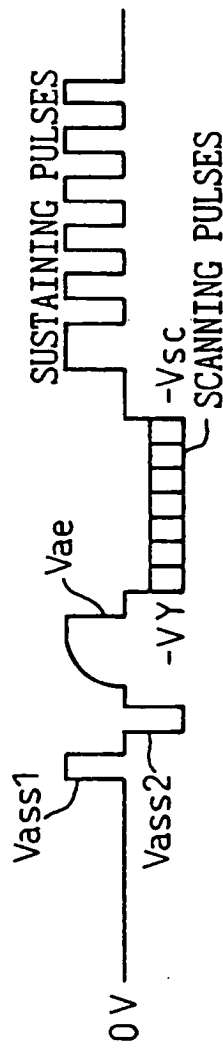


Fig.2(d)

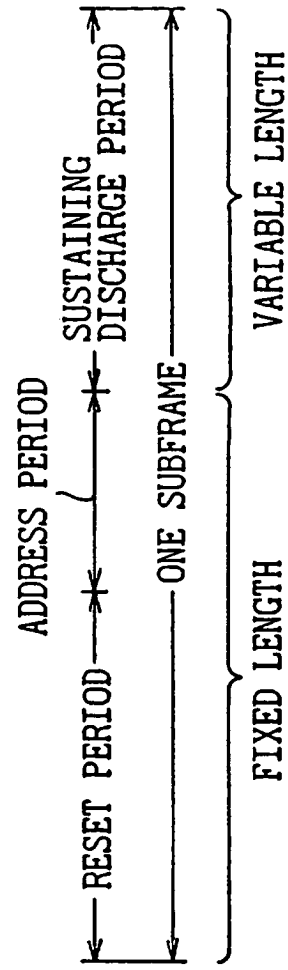


Fig.3

	SF1	SF2	SF3	SF4
SUS0	1	2	4	8
SUS1	1	2	4	9
SUS2	1	2	5	9
SUS3	1	2	5	10
SUS4	1	3	5	10
SUS5	1	3	5	11
SUS 127				
	16	32	64	128

Fig.4

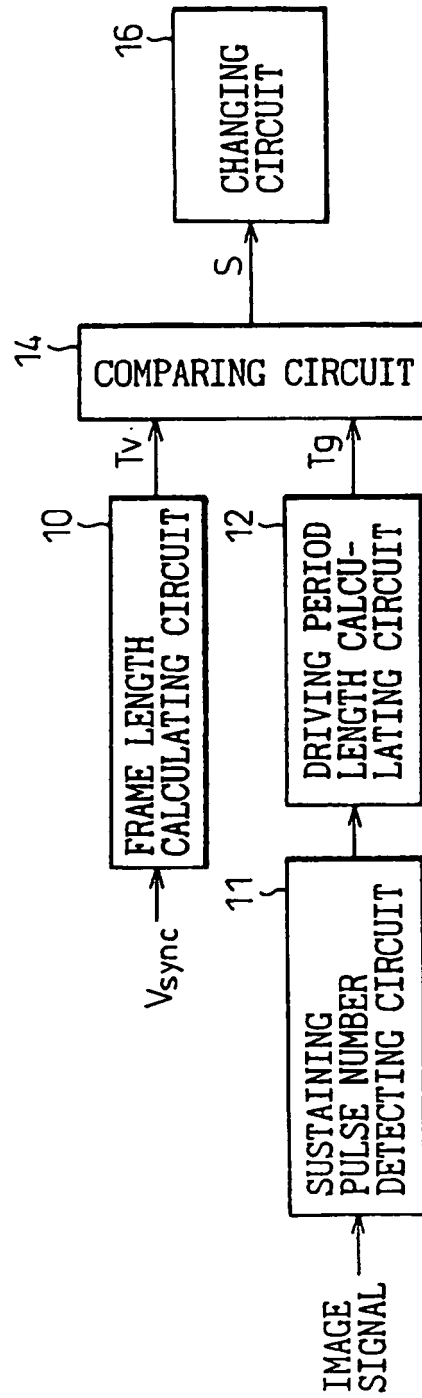


Fig.5(a)

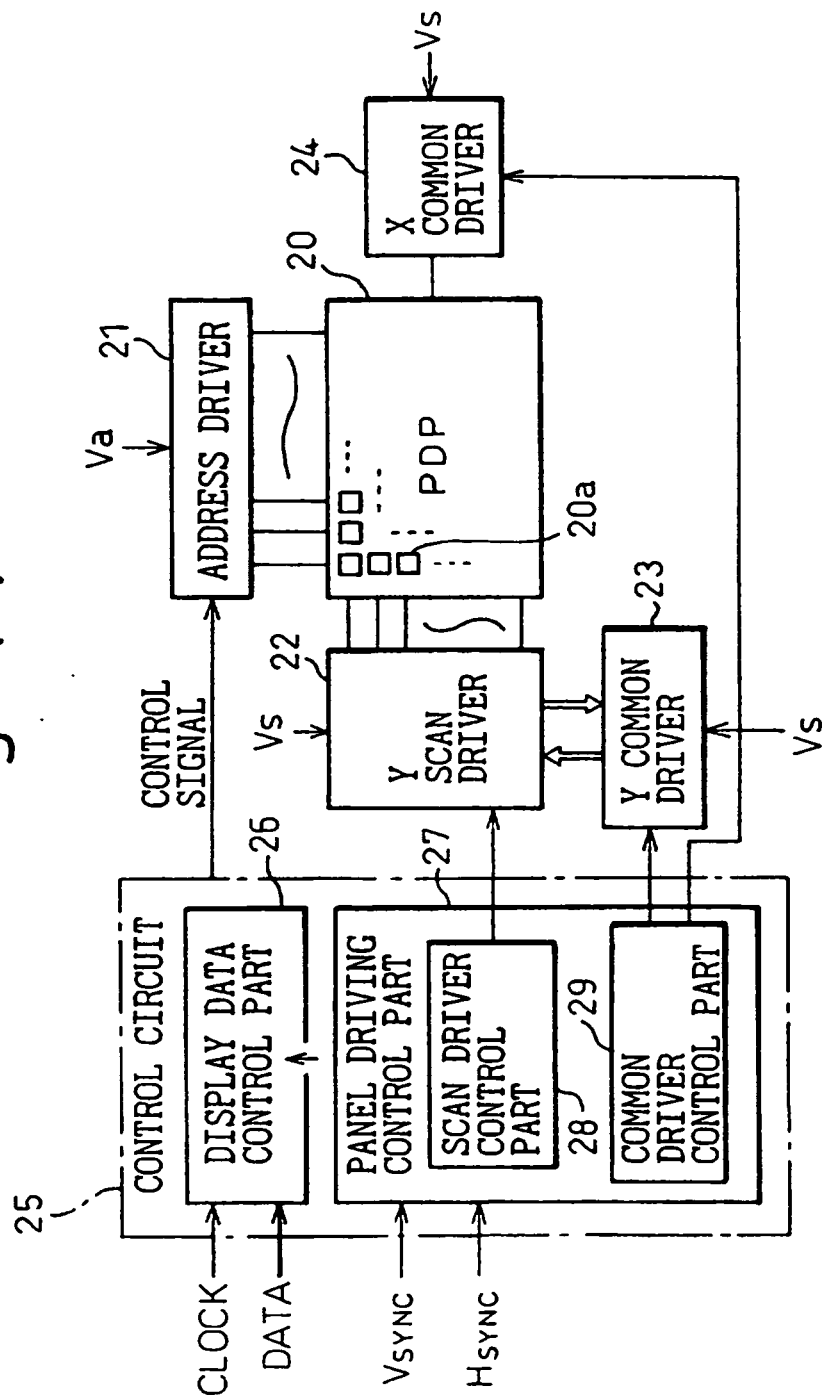


Fig.5(b)

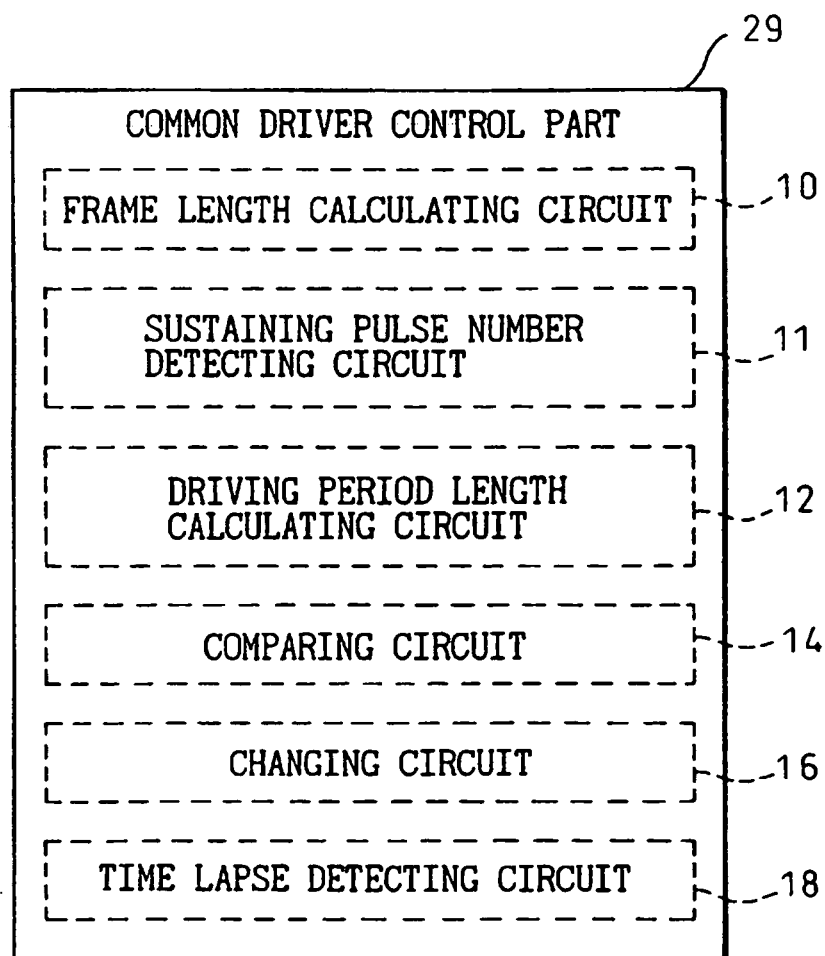


Fig.6

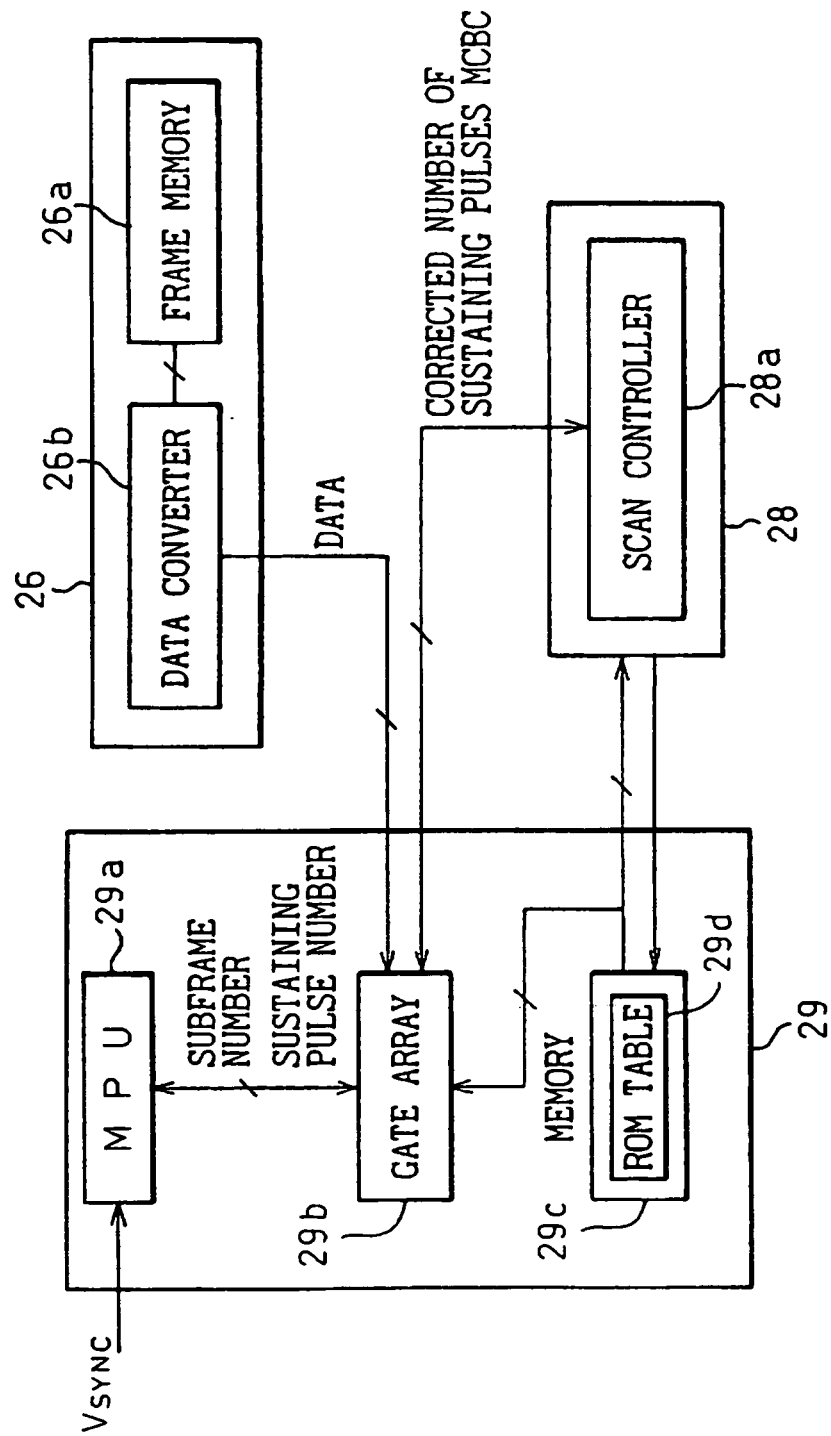


Fig.7

ADDRESS	SF1	SF2	SF3	SF4	SF5	SF6	SF7	SF8	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUSTAINING PULSES
MCBC127	3	6	12	24	48	96	96	96	381
MCBC126	3	6	12	24	47	95	95	95	377
MCBC125	3	6	12	23	47	94	94	94	373
MCBC124	3	6	12	23	46	93	93	93	369
MCBC123	3	6	11	23	46	92	92	92	365
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
MCBC 1	1	2	4	8	17	33	33	33	131
MCBC 0	1	2	4	8	16	32	32	32	127

Fig.8

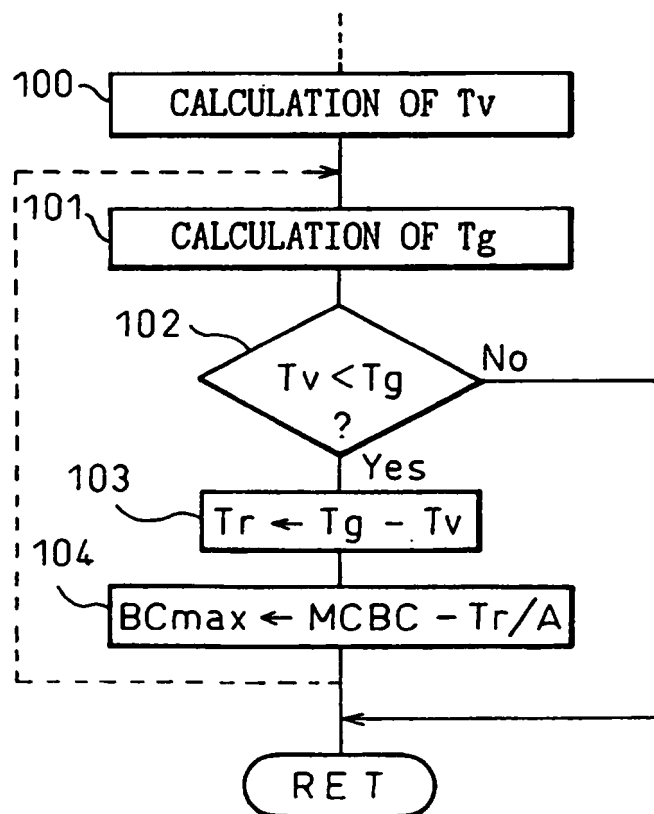


Fig.9

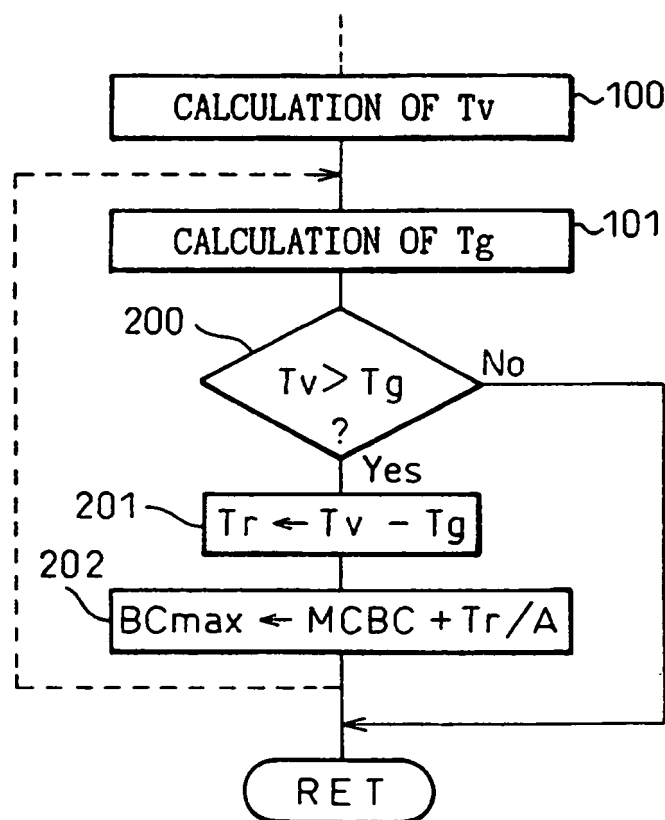


Fig.10

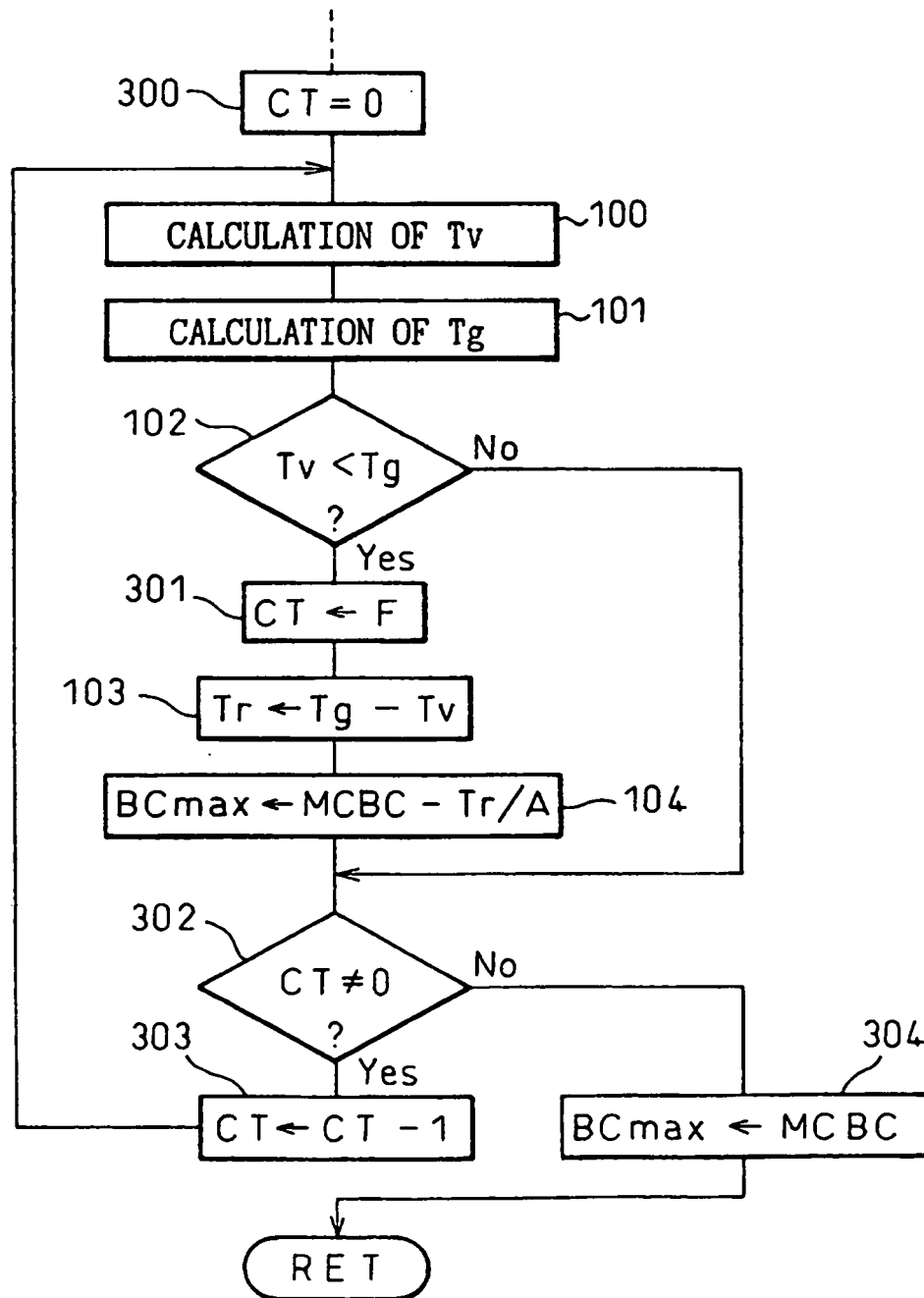


Fig.11

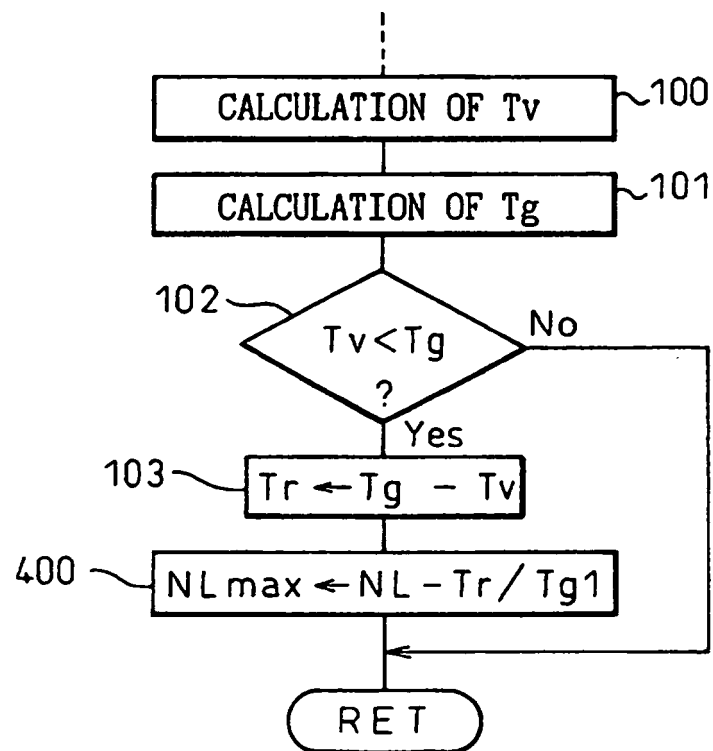


Fig.12

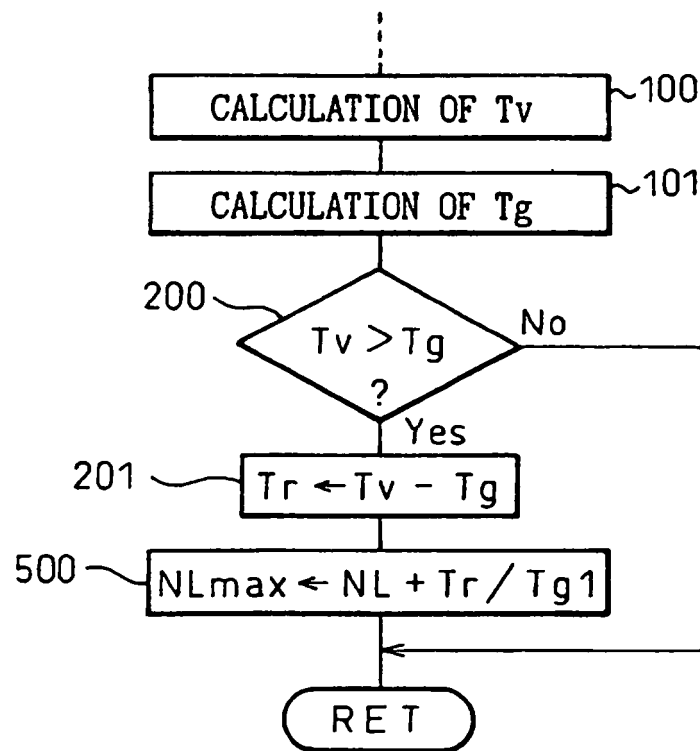


Fig.13

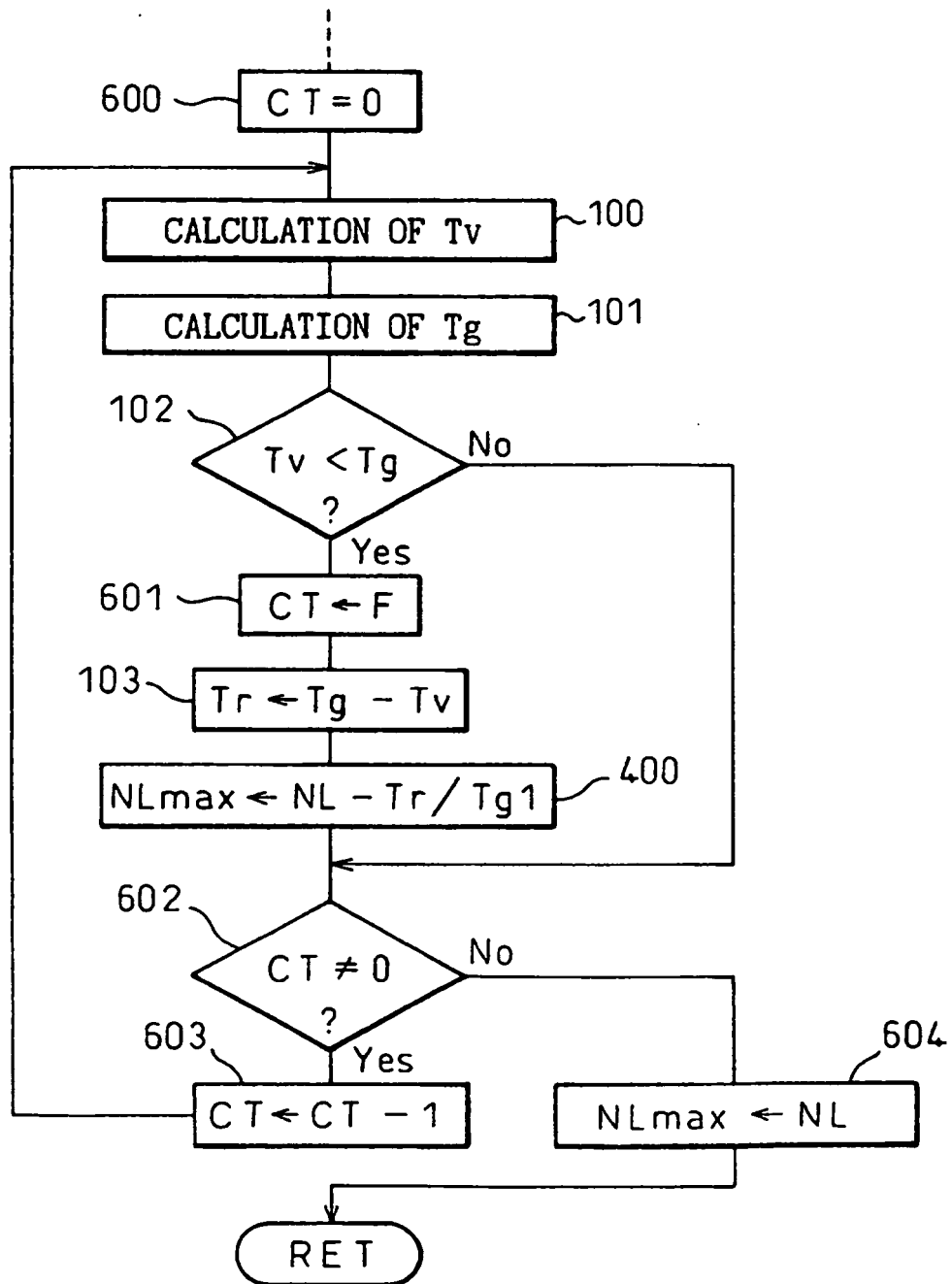


Fig.14(a)

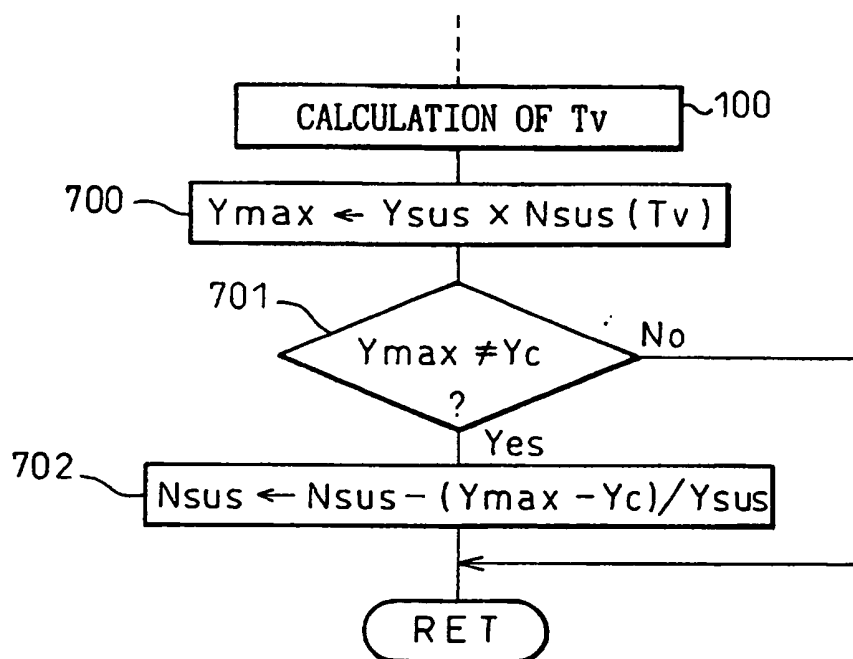
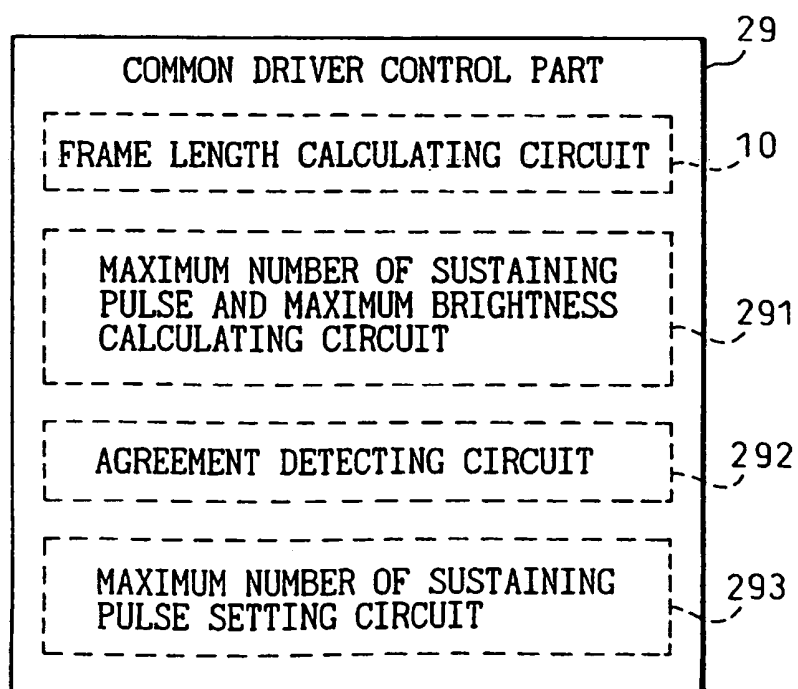


Fig.14(b)



REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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